

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A polymeric composition comprising:
    - (a) a first ethylene polymer;
    - (b) a second ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.95 grams/cubic centimeter and being modified with an unsaturated aliphatic diacid anhydride;
    - (c) a flame retardant; and
    - (d) an ultra high molecular weight polysiloxane, having its viscosity greater than 1,000,000 centistokes at room temperature.
  2. (Original) The polymeric composition of Claim 1 wherein the first ethylene polymer is selected from the group consisting of ethylene homopolymers, ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymers, ethylene/unsaturated ester copolymers, and ethylene/vinyl silane copolymers.
  3. (Original) The polymeric composition of Claim 1 wherein the first ethylene polymer is selected from the group consisting of
    - (i) an ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.92 grams/cubic-centimeter, a peak DSC melting point above about 90 degrees Celsius, and a polydispersity index ("Mw/Mn") greater than about 3;
    - (ii) an ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.90 grams/cubic-centimeter and a polydispersity index less than about 3; and
    - (iii) mixtures of (i) and (ii).
  4. (Currently Amended) The polymeric composition of Claim 1 wherein the second ethylene polymer being is modified via grafting or copolymerization.
  5. (Previously Canceled)
  6. (Currently Amended) The polymeric composition of Claim 1 wherein the flame retardant being is a metal hydrate.
  7. (Original) The polymeric composition of Claim 6 wherein the metal hydrate is selected from the group consisting of aluminum trihydroxide and magnesium dihydroxide.
- Claims 8-10 (Previously Canceled)
11. (Currently Amended) A polymeric composition comprising:
    - (a) a first ethylene polymer selected from the group consisting of

(i) an ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.92 grams/cubic-centimeter, a peak DSC melting point above about 90 degrees Celsius, and a polydispersity index ("Mw/Mn") greater than about 3,

(ii) an ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.90 grams/cubic-centimeter and a polydispersity index less than about 3, and

(iii) mixtures of (i) and (ii);

(b) a second ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.95 grams/cubic centimeter and being modified with an unsaturated aliphatic diacid anhydride;

(c) a metal hydrate is selected from the group consisting of aluminum trihydroxide and magnesium dihydroxide; and

(d) an ultra high molecular weight polydimethylsiloxane, having its viscosity greater than 1,000,000 centistokes at room temperature,

wherein the composition having an LOI of at least about 37.

12. (Currently Amended) A cable comprising one or more electrical conductors or communication media, or a core of two or more electrical conductors or communication media, each electrical conductor, communication medium, or core being surrounded by a flame retardant composition comprising:

(a) a first ethylene polymer;

(b) a second ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.95 grams/cubic centimeter and being modified with an unsaturated aliphatic diacid anhydride;

(c) a flame retardant; and

(d) an ultra high molecular weight polysiloxane, having its viscosity greater than 1,000,000 centistokes at room temperature.

13. (Previously Canceled)

14. (Original) The cable of Claim 12 wherein the first ethylene polymer is selected from the group consisting of

(i) an ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.92 grams/cubic-centimeter, a peak DSC melting point above about 90 degrees Celsius, and a polydispersity index ("Mw/Mn") greater than about 3;

(ii) an ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.90 grams/cubic-centimeter and a polydispersity index less than about 3; and

(iii) mixtures of (i) and (ii).

Claims 15-21 (Previously Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture made from or containing a flame retardant composition comprising:

(a) a first ethylene polymer;

(b) a second ethylene polymer having a density less than about 0.95 grams/cubic centimeter and being modified with an unsaturated aliphatic diacid anhydride;

(c) a flame retardant; and

(d) an ultra high molecular weight polysiloxane, having its viscosity greater than 1,000,000 centistokes at room temperature.

23. (Original) The article of Claim 22 wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of extended or thermoformed sheets, injection-molded articles, coated fabrics, construction materials, and automotive materials.